critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T. M. Kraus

Nov 21, 1960 Vol XII No 35 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service-11th year - Published 52 weeks a year $25 per year

This Week in NYC

ANTA pioneered an unusual fund raising method for a non-profit theatre organization. It has invested $100,000 in The Conquering Hero musical due Jan 5 at ANTA Theatre starring Tom Poston ANTA will get all the income from the musical version of "Hail the Conquering Hero" film, pay production expenses and theatre rent. Federal tax may be dropped during NY run, profits will be used for nationwide promotion of ANTA.

Plays

Shows that closed include- Face of a Hero after 36 performances, The Rape of the Belt after 9 performances...Love and Libel to open Dec 7 at Beck... Advise & Consent opened to $600,000 advance sale...Show Girl revue starring Carol Channing with Jules Munshin and Les Quat' Jeudis due Jan 12, directed by author Charles Gaynor...Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe starring Claudette Colbert as Mrs. Brooks Atkinson due Jan 19 ...White Alice by James Clavell to be presented in Jan, Norman Corwin director ...The Happiest Girl in the World musical to be directed by Cyril Ritchard who will also star, due in Mar...Carnival musical version of "Lili" film slated for Apr 13 starring Anna Maria Alberghetti, music and lyrics by Gower Champion, produced by David Merrick...Laurette acquired by Roger Stevens for production next season, but not with Judy Holliday, though Jose Quintero will direct.

Directors

Richard Burton joined Camelot in Boston to assist Alan Jay Lerner direct musical. Father of Richard Burton has directed three Off Broadway productions in 1959.

Players

Ethel Merman to leave Gypsy Dec 18...Jane Hoffman added to Rhinoceros... Eugene Ionesco arrived for rehearsals of Rhinoceros...Patricia Harty subbing for Pat Stanley, Fiorello! while latter in Hollywood making new Jerry Lewis film...Kevin McCarthy joined Advise and Consent in Philadelphia one week prior to NY debut. 230 reported to try-out for 5 non speaking roles as Senators in NY, roles pay $ 32 per week... Luba Malina to be featured in Julia Jake and Uncle Joe.

NYC Calendar

Whisper to Me- Players- 11/21- Manya Starr presents new comedy by Greer Johnson based on short story by William Goyen directed by Marcella Cisney with Ruth White, Dorothy Sands, Mary Finney.

Marcus in the High Grass- Greenwich Mews- 11/21. Stella Holt-Carlo Salmaggi - George White present new play by Bill Gunn directed by Brian Shaw with Burt Brinkerhoff, David Ford, Parker McCormick.

The Premise- Premise Theatre-Thompson & Bleecker 11/22. Theodore Flocker presents and directs five improvised scenes suggested by audience with George Segal, Dolores Welber, Joan Darling, Thomas Aldredge and Flicker. Theatre cafe will serve food and drinks.

Dream Play- Theatre East 11/22. John Bowman-Richard Roffman present Strindberg play, staged by Bowman.

Drama Desk

National Theatre Conference 1960 opening session Nov 25 at Hotel Picadilly, NYC to feature NY drama critics and drama editors panel discussion on reviewing, John Gassner chairman... NY Herald Tribune "Living Arts" Sun magazine section started Nov 20 with interviews, reviews, news, etc of theatre, film, music, books, art, etc. Judith Crist editor.

Theatre TV Notes

Forthcoming WNTA Play of the Week productions this season to be taped this month include--New Faces of 1952 with Paul Lynde, Alice Ghostley, Inga Swenson and A Clearing in the Woods with Celeste Holm.

Theatre Film Notes

Alec Guinness and Rosiland Russell to star in both film versions of A Majority of One and Five Finger Exercise. Mervyn LeRoy to direct former starting in Feb, with some location scenes to be made in Japan...I Must Love Someone, 1939 Broadway play by Jack Kirkland, to be filmed by 20th Century Fox under title "Girls Are Here to Stay" with Julie Newmar, Barrie Chase.

Theatre Book Notes

"Our Town" new edition published by Harper & Bros. ($3.50)..."The Stanislavski Method" by Sonia Moore published by Viking Press.($ 2.95)

Off Broadway

Shows that closed include- The Shoemaker and the Peddler after 43 performances, and Kukla, Burr and Ollie after 18 performances. Latter forced to suspend due to TV commitments of Burr Tillstrom and plans to re-open.

When I Was a Child dramatized stories for adults about children adapted and directed by Arnold Tager to be presented Dec 8 at 41st St Theatre by M. Edgar Rosenblum, producer of Woodstock, NY Summer Playhouse. Stories are by Dylan Thomas, Virginia Woolf, Frank O Connor, Shirley Jackson, Sholem Aleichem. Cast includes George Bartenleff, Gaye Glaesser, Nany Jones, Jerry Weiss. Production went on tour of colleges last winter.

Grand Guignol to be presented by St. John Terrell at his new Off Broadway playhouse now being remodeled at site of a former church at 208 W 11. First production will be in mid-Jan.

Bhaskar to be feature in The King of the Dark Chamber Indian drama due in Dec ...William Swetland added to Borak.

Paint Your Wagon to be first production Dec 27-30 of Brooklyn Theatre Arts Company, Paul Taubman director.

Legal Dept

League of NY Theatres named Irving Cheskin Executive Director, effective Jan 2 replacing retiring James F. Reilly. Cheskin will also continue as Executive Director of NY Film Producers Assn.

Theatre Ad Notes

Phoenix Theatre display ad noted "She Stoops to Conquer- Conquers Critics" and added that modesty and budget halted large quote ads, so they settled for a few kind words from each notice... Capitol Records original cast disc of Unsinkable Molly Brown display ads daily counted off days to "MollyDay:" Nov 21 when record was released.

NY Church Drama

The Family Reunion to be presented Dec 9-10 by Union Theological Seminary Dept of Religious Drama, Broadway & 120th St, NYC... Robert Penn Warren, Edward Albee, Jack Richardson attended seminar on theatre and religion today at Riverside Church, NYC, sponsored by National Council of Churches.

((Late News & Reviews- Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Under the Yum Yum Tree- Miller 11/16 . 3 pro-Times, News, World Telegram & Sun- and 4 con- Herald Tribune , Mirror, Post, Journal American- filed on farce comedy by Lawrence Roman, presented by Frederick Brisson and Roger Stevens, directed by Joseph Anthony with Gig Young, Sandra Church, Nan Martin, Dean Jones . Affirmative minority enjoyed minor farce and excellent comic acting and direction, while negative majority thought first play by new author was thin, unoriginal and often unfunny. Pro voter Taubman, Times, recommended gay, frothy comedy because of its unusual charming wolf character portrayed by Young in play based on Hollywood formula comedy of being provocative while remaining moral, that wisely never takes self seriously. Chapman, News, approved of nice bit of fluff about sex with charming performances, amusing situations, an excellent twist ending and too many words. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, mildly endorsed comedy with speed, style, pace and dash of welcome satire on subject that has become ridiculous. Dissenter Kerr, Herald Tribune, noted that other comedies succeeded on similiar slender threads, but this failed because author neglected to pretend for one moment that calculated sex as a box-office come-on wasn't the only thing on his transparent mind. Coleman, Mirror, reported that first nighters generally were uproarious over cardboard charade, a lightweight sex farce with the usuall errors of one joke, sketchy characters and action more frantic than thoughtful. Watts, Post, panned it as almost unbearable despite most industrious acting . McClain, Journal American, blamed a weak second act for evening's failure of play with small and amusing premise and a strong finish.

Rosemary and The Alligators - York- 11/14. 5 pros- Times, News, Mirror, Post, World Telegram & Sun- and 1 con- Herald Tribune- filed on twin bill of one act plays by Molly Kazan, presented by Roger Stevens, directed by Gerald Freedman with Jo Van Fleet, Piper Laurie, Paul Richards and William Daniels. All filed raves for superb acting by Van Fleet , director, and other cast members , though some differed on strength of the two one hour plays. Sole negative voter blamed construction of plays, not the excellent acting. Taubman, Times, lauded Van Fleet's portrayal in the second playlet as superb, acting of the first order, though they play itself might have seemed contrived without her intense performance. Times man rated first play a trifle which provided Laurie with agreeable NY debut. Davis, News, cheered both plays, players and two sets by Fred Voelpel; the first a sometimes touching and often ridiculous comic playlet, the second a grim one actor. Coleman, Mirror, joined pro side mostly for Van Fleet's absorbing tour de force performance in the second play. Watts, Post, found fault with both playlets, but recommended event as a fine actors' showcase. First play seemed too long to Post critic, while second missed climax by making outcome obvious. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, had no reservations for smooth, unassuming double bill that delivers a one-two to the solar plexus. Negative viewer Kerr, Herald Tribune, agreed with colleagues that acting was exceptional. He felt both plays are at their most interesting while squatting on an odd and changeless plateau, and miss they they suddenly leap into a moment of deliberate excitment . They then lose their sullen fascination and become disturbing artifices.

((Late Reviews-- Supplement))

OFF BROADWAY WEEK

Stewed Prunes- Circle 11/14. 3 cons-Times, Herald Tribune, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new revue by and with MacIntyre Dixon, Lynda Segal, Richard Libertini being presented Mons at 8 40, Wed and Fri at 12 midnite at Circle in Square. Revue previously was performed at Take 3 Coffee House. Reviewers gently suggested that show which was acceptable at coffee house did not fit as well into theatre set -up. Funke, Times, complimented the first rate, zany comics and noted that in the intimacy of a coffee house or a night club it is one dish, but in a theatre in the round where patrons have paid a specified sum the revuse is a bit watered. Crist, Herald Tribune, felt that with a little disciplinary direction and some well-edited material the trio could be seen in a better showcase than the present entry. Their material still belongs in a coffee house, they themselves deserve and will probably get a better showcase. Crist predicted. Saffron, WTS, found lots of large pits and not much that was funny.

Two Noh Play- ANTA Matinee Series-De Lys 11/15. 2 critics- Calta, Times, and Aston, World Telegram & Sun, approved of the two modern Japanese Noh plays- Hanjo and The Lady Akane by Yukio Mishima, translated by Donald Keefe presented at this season's second Greater NY Chapter of ANTA Matinee series. Walt Witcover directed cast with Anne Meacham, Rose Arrick, Michael Karlan, Carol Hebald.. Times aisle-sitter cheered short afternoon program for demonstrating why Mishima is regarded as Japan's leading post war author , for in the two variations of the same theme of shattered romance he emerges as a versatile, subtle and effective author worthy of attention. Program is mislabeled , Calta noted, for plays are not Noh dramas with singing, dancing, music and mime, but rather plays under Western influence. Aston, WTS, applauded fascinating two hours of drama directed in low key effectively with Meacham magnificant in fine cast.

Kukla, Burr and Ollie-Children's Matinee- 11/13. Herridge, Post, recommended special week-end matinee presentation of Burr Tillstrom's puppet characters for the very young. She reported expressions of love from the toddlers almost drowned out Tillstrom. Program is suspended due to Tillstrom'sTV committments.

INTER-VIEW HI-LITES

TAMMY GRIMES, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, was first asked to play the title role last spring, read it seven times, felt it was like asking her to play Lady Macbeth, decided she couldn't do it, and then finally decided no one else but her could do it, she told Fields, Mirror. Actress will never take any role she thought someone else could do better.

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS suggests that if audiences analyze Period of Adjustment carefully they will find it does not have a happy ending, he told Ross, Herald Tribune. It is only happy in the sense that all characters are alive and that they are interested in going on living. While this is about is far as author can currently go with that Pollyanna stuff, he admitted that his black violence might return to his writing.

EUGENE IONESCO described the hero of Rhinoceros as the man who stands alone, allergic to the collective hysteria of the modern world and the marche militaire of humanity, he told Little, Herald Tribune. Producer Leo Kerz reported that mail orders for the new play have been heavy from college students where Ionesco is best known now.

MICHAEL DUNN- Here Comes the Clowns 26 year old 3 foot 10 inch dwarf ins't letting success go to his head, he told Johnson, World Telegram & Sun. It's just a big year for dwarfs in the theatre, two seasons ago it was Orientals, next year it will be something else.

GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

REVIEWERS AT WORK... Pulse-takers seem to be nudging critics out of their jobs, fears Aston, World Telegram & Sun. Aisle sitter gets shakes thinking about audience testing at defunct Behind the Wall which might result in a widget that will tell editors in one hour all about the goods and bads of a first night. Reviewing will then be done by something made of glue, old carburetors and corn shucks, and Aston will have to go back to work. WTS man concluded that perhaps reviewers should adopt protective coloration, such as tasteful black and blue... McClain, Journal American, revealed fool proof plan of informing friends who claim they missed his original review. Rather than give them a confusion of wrong players and play-houses he urges them to phone back the next day so he can read his review from his scrapbook.

COLUMN TIPS... Moss Hart, back in NY recuperating, may retire from theatre, whispers Lyons, Post... Mai Zetterling bowed out of Hedda Gabler rather than face a NY audience, hears Winchell, Mirror... Carol Lawrence earns $1250 in West Side Story and turned down a smaller sum to star in Carnival, reports McHarry, News.

7 30 PM FLOP... Broadway shows were right in going back to 8 30 PM Wed curtains, comments Davis, News. Early curtain was established for the benefit of the commuters, but the railroad service is so lousy it made little difference.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Why are so many of the new theatre clowns, such as Tammy Grimes, Elaine May and Mike Nicolhs, mystics, asks Kerr, Herald Tribune. They really hear music and there is no one there in their own world of private lunancy.. Current She Stoops to Conquer is one of the Phoenix sunniest productions, reflecting the taste and skill of director Stuart Vaughan, lauds Atkinson, Times... Why not a dozen theatres in Central Park with free burlesque, vaudeville, beer halls, open air movies and Punch and Judy shows, suggests Davis, News.

SECOND GUESSES.... A trio of diverse opinions on Invitation to a March voiced in follow-up Sun. articles. Chapman, News, approved of Arthur Laurents' play in which author was remarkably artful in bouncing all the characters in his comedy off each other and contriving a subtle and interesting change in each. McClain, Journal American, rated it a welcome starter, revealing author as having renounced the temptations of the oblique and abstract and come of age as a disciple of the kind of comedy that bathes frequently and wears a dinner jacket. But Watts, Post, felt that Laurents employment of worldly wit, a bit of whimsey and an occasional work that audiences once found shocking strive to gloss over with sophistication a basic sentimentality of which he seems fearful.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... The Golden Apple re-issue of original cast album of Phoenix musical (Elektra) recommended by Watt, News, as a nice addition to the list of currently available show albums... Irma La Douce original cast album (Columbia) enjoyed by Aston, World Telegram & Sun, especially Stanley Lebowsky's pit orchestra that makes sounds dear in the memory of all twenty day Paris tourists.

PROS & CONS BY TMK

Period of Adjustment is the world's best advertisement of the profitable cures of psycho-analysis in the field of modern playwriting. As the author has made no secret of his season of analysis at $50 per visit the results can be fairly judged. The play itself is a perfect blend of interesting, warm, fully developed characters, an understandable humorous situation, and a gentle satire on small town mores and TV addiction in the land. Trio of leading players each give the best performances of their career.

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Rosemary and The Alligators is an enjoyable twin bill superbly acted by a remarkable company of four players, the younger players more than holding their own against Jo Van Fleet. Taken straight as a light comic postcard of vaudeville days and as a modern gangsters thriller the two one hour playlets are always interesting, well written and effectively presented. In addition each playlet contains a not-so-gentle slap by the author at a certain type of bird-brained would be actress that is so accurate that the author might readily be sued for libel by hundreds.

* *

Nobody within TV range of NYC has a legitimate excuse for missing WNTA Play of the Week's outstanding production to date, a full length The Iceman Cometh presented in two two hour taped segments. The uniformly excellent cast headed by Jason Robards, Jr and Myron McCormick give a truly inspired performance, the TV direction uses many close-ups giving definition to the O'Neill modern classic. The NY station, making the most of the promotion of such a work, is holding an essay contest to encourage NY area college students to view the telecast. Anyone who wouldn't watch without such bait does not deserve to be a student of English, theatre or what have you. They probably wouldn't turn the dial from the western anyway.

* *

Two authors in recent weeks presented new plays in NYC putting the ticket buying audience straight in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Invitation to a March admits that it is low tide during the action of the play, but Rosemary makes no such limitation. In their efforts to provide the public with "clean" plays, aren't the authors sort of overdoing it?

* *

William Saroyan must end his self-imposed and tax-inspired exile to recapture the Broadway publicity award for modern playwrights. Currently Brendan Behan is the champion be it via interviews in the press, TV or at college teas. It is expected that once Eugene Ionesco understands the depths of NY publicity will give Behan a good race. But Saroyan in his prime as author-director-producer could certainly give the two immigrants profitable lessons in the fine art of theatrical public relations.

* *

ANTA's investment and gamble in The Conquering Hero could be one of the most important innovations in NY theatre financing history. With a little bit of luck the musical could be a big hit and ANTA would have a healthy income for national promotion purposes. If the investment itself is widely promoted, it is possible that other non-profit foundations might be encouraged to invest in theatre productions with profits, if any, being used for nationwide theatre promotion on all levels.

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Nov 21, 1960 THEATRE FACT CHART- CRITICAL DIGEST-139 E 47, NYC- EL 5-6894

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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back its investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past week and preceding weeks. Thus- 100% B- Cap $80--$80 $76 $74- means show was a sellout last week at $80,000, the previous week's gross was $76,000, etc

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ADVISE & CONSENT Cort $7.50 11/17/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	See Supplement for Digests Cap $40
BECKET St James $7.50 10/5/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 4 raves- 1 Con- Times 100% B Cap $59--$56-$54 $56 $57 $59 $59
BEST MAN Morosco $7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 75% B - Cap $40--$30 $35 $40 $40 $41
BYE BYE BIRDIE 54th St $8.60 4/14/60	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	90% C- 1 Con- Times-rest all raves 85% B - Cap $60--$47 $55 $58 $58 Beck
FIORELLO! Broadhurst $9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 90% B- Cap $58--$51 $56 $58 $58 $58
49th COUSIN Ambass $6.90 10/27/60	215 W 45 CO 5-1855	30% C- 2 Pro- Times, News 65% B - Cap$32--$25 $23
GYPSY Imperial $9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 75% B - Cap $64--$44 $49 $51 $59 $64
HOSTAGE Barrymore $7.50 9/20/60	247 W 47 CI 6-0390	60% C- 4 Pro- H Trib, Post, Mir, WTS 65% B- Cap $40--$22- Moved Cort. $25
INVITATION TO MARCH M Box $7.50 10/29/60	239 W 45 CI 5-9850	30% C- 2 Pro- News, J Am 75% B - Cap $40--$30 $27
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth $8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib 100% B- Cap $49--$49 $49 $49 $49 $49
LA PLUME Royale $8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 65% B - Cap $45--$28 $35 $37 $40 $42
MIKE & ELAINE Golden $6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for 2 person revue 95 % B - Cap $30--$28 $30 $30 $31 $30
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse $7.50 10/19/60	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 90% B- Cap $36--$30 $32 $34 $36 $36
MUSIC MAN Broadway $8.05 12/19/57	1681 Bway CI 7-7992	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 50% B- Cap $73--$35 $36 $48- $38
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News Ok P Charles 65% B- Cap $70--$44 $48 $50 $56 $56
PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT Hayes $7.50 11/10/60	206 W 46 CI 6-6380	70% C - 2 Con- Times, WTS Cap $43
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt $9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $75--$75 $75 $76 $76 $76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert $9.50 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir-2 raves-News, WTS 55% B - Cap $64--$35 $31 $40 $58 $52
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum $6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	80% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 65% B - Cap $32--$24 $22 $24 $23 $21 $17
TENDERLOIN 46th St $8.60 10/17/60	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	30% C- 2 Pro- News, WTS (raves) 80% B - Cap $64--$55 $62 $62 $61
TENTH MAN Booth $7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-Times, News 50% B - Cap $32-- $18 $16 $20 $22 $24
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA $7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mir milder 40% B - Cap $49--$16 $14 $21 $22 $28 $28
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson $7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 50% B- Cap $40--$21 $20 $24 $25 $27 $25
UNDER YUM YUM Miller $7.50 11/16/60	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	See Page 2 for Digests Cap $33
UNSINKABLE M BROWN W Garden $9.40 11/3/60	1634 Bway CI 5-4878	70% C 2 Con- News, Mir 80% B - Cap $68--$56
THE WALL Rose $7.50 10/11/60	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 pro-raves-Times, News, WTS 40% B Cap $46--$18 $18 $22 $25 $30
WEST SIDE STORY Alvin $8.05 4/27/60	250 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 75% B- Cap $55--$35 $29 $33 $39

"CD PROS & CONS "

PROS: All current On & Off Bway except following--

CONS: 49th Cousin, Invitation to March, Tenderloin, Sound of Music, 10th Man, Here Comes Clowns, La Ronde

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle $4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
DANCE OF DEATH Key $3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
DEEP ARE ROOTS St Marks $3.60 10/3/60	133 -2nd Av OR 4-3530	5 Pro- 1 Con- Post- No Mirror
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C Lane $4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm CH 2-4289	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
GREENWICH VILLAGE USA 1 Sher Sq $4.50 9/28/60	1 Sher Sq UN 9-1334	5 Pro- 1 Con- Times- No Mirror review
FANTASTICKS Sullivan $4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HEDDA GABLER 4th St $4.60 11/9/60	83 E 4 AL 4-4795	7 Pro- Unanimous raves for Anne Meacham
HERE COMES CLOWNS Actors Play $4.60 9/19/60	100-7th Av S OR 5-1036	4 Pro- Times, News, Post, J Am 3 Con- H Trib, Mir, WTS
LA RONDE T Marquee $3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All Mild- no Mirror
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq $5 5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum $4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
MAN & SUPERMAN Gate $3.60 11/6/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-8796	3 Pro- Times, J Am, WTS 2 Con- H Trib, Post- to Dec 3
MOUSETRAP Maidman $5.75 11/5/60	416 W 42 BR 9-3970	5 Pro- 2 Con- News, WTS
MY SON & I Anderson $4.60 10/22/60	66-2nd Av OR 4-1076	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, News, Post Yiddish-English musical
ROSEMARY & ALLIGATORS York $4.60 11/14/60	64 & 1st TR 9-4130	5 Pro- 1 Con- No Journal American
SHEPERDS ON SHELF Blackfriars $3 10/14/60	320 W 57 CI 7-0236	3 Pro- Mir, J Am, WTS
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER Phoenix $4.60 11/1/60	181-2nd Av AL 4-0525	5 Pro- No Mirror 1 Con- H Trib
STEWED PRUNES Circle $2 11/14/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	M- 8 30- W & Fri 12 midnit 3 Con- Times, H Trib, WTS
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.95 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING THEATRE Living $3.45	530- 6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection-5 Con- 1 Pro- Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 Pro-Post 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Whisper to Me- Players- 11/21
Marcus in the High Grass- G Mews 11/21
Dream Play- Theatre East- 11/22
The Premise- Premise- 11/22
All the Way Home- Belasco 11/30
Little Moon of Alban- Longacre 12/1
Camelot- Majestic- 12/3

Emmanuel- Gate- 12/4
Send Me No Flowers-Atkinson 12/5
Plough & Stars- Phoenix- 12/6
Love & Libel- Beck 12/7
When I Was Child- 41st - 12/8
Borak- Martinque- 12/13
Critic's Choice- Barrym 12/14
Wildcat- Alvin- 12/15
Jungle of Cities- Living 12/16
Donogoo- G Mews- 12/21
What a Killing- York 12/22
Do Re Mi- St James 12/26
Beautiful Dreamer- Mad Av 12/27

Conquering Hero- ANTA 1/5
Rhinoceros- 1/5
Show Girl- 1/12
Love & Death- 1/15
Julia, Jake & Uncle Joe- 1/19
Midgie Purvis- 1/26

I'm With You- 2/1
Medium Rare- 2/6
Faust- C Center 2/7
Once Was Russian- 2/8
13 Daughters- 2/9
Comedie Franciase-C Center 2/21
The Caretaker- Miller 2/?
Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/?

Donnybrook- 3/17
Carnival- 4/13

CD

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE--now in its 11th year of service to theatre teachers, students, professionals --college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries--presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive editorial coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryouts via mail, phone. $25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956- $25 per year. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

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Name.....Address.....

Organization..... City, State.....

OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College------Community---- Summer

Nov 21, 1960 Vol XII No 35 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest" 139 E 47, NYC E15-6894-$25 per year for full "CD"Service

College Theatre

An Evening with Burgess Meredith debuted this week at Univ of Michigan, Ann Arbor prior to national college tour next season. Starring Meredith cast also includes Nancy Wickwire, Basil Langton, Tom Clancy, Pauline Flanagan presenting material from James Joyce, Maxwell Anderson, James Thurber, Dylan Thomas. Director-actor's next assignment is staging of Midgie Purvis due in Jan in NY with Tallulah Bankhead.

Adelphi College, Garden City, NY Readers Theatre opens season Dec 8-9 with twin bill of student reading of The Boy With a Cart and a faculty reading of The Loves of Alonzo Fitzclarence and Rosannah Ethelton by Mark Twain, adapted by Josephine Nichols. Fry playlet will be available for tours of Long Island clubs, social groups and schools at a $30 nightly fee.

Yale University named Lawrence Langer and Goddard Lieberson honorary curators of Theatre Guild and American Musical Theatre Collections... Circle in Square producer Ted Mann lectured this week at Rollins College, Winter ParkFla. ...Dorothy Stickney presents her one woman show A Lovely Light Dec 13 at NY State College of Education.

$500 prize for best essay by NY area college student on The Iceman Cometh current WNTA Play of the Week production. Entries of any length must be in by Dec 4 to--Essay Contest, NTA, 10 Columbus Circle, NY 19 NY

Winter Repertory

USA, Comic Strip and Oh Kay recent Off Broadway hits to be revived this season at Academy Playhouse, Palm Beach, Fla, the 200 seat theatre of Royal Poinciana Playhouse. Current is The Fantasticks ...Tevya and His Daughters run at 68 seat Upstairs Theatre of Pittsburgh, Pa. Playhouse continues into second season.

AETA News

Southwest Theatre Award of Southwest Conference of American Educational Theatre Assn presented to John Rosenfield, amusements editor of Dallas News at 13th annual meeting of group at Baton Rouge, La.

Summer Playhouses

Milwaukee Melody Top to open in 1962 summer season at Brookfield, Wisc 10 miles west of Milwaukee presented by Rach-Bidwell-McCarthy, producers of successful Chicago Melody Top.

London

The Music Man with Van Johnson to open in Mar... The Importance of Being Oscar one man show with Michael Mac-Liammoir to be repeated after Christmas ...Little Darlings, adaptation of French comedy by Worthington Minor debuts this week at Adelphi, presented by Jack Hylton -Kenneth Wagg.

Aldwych Theatre, branch of Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in London, debuts Dec 15 with The Duchess of Malfi starring Peggy Ashcroft, staged by Donald Whinnie. Repertory company of 35 being signed to three year contracts by Peter Hall to divide time between London and Stratford -theatres. Already signed are Max Adrian, Eric Porter, Dorothy Tutin, Patrick Wymark. First season schedule includes Ondine, Becket, Twelfth Night and The Devils by John Whiting.

Paris

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui by Bertolt Brecht written while he was in US presented by Theatre National Populaire, directed and featuring Jean Vilar ...The Connection production of NY 's Living Theatre invited to Theatre des Nations festival in June if it can raise the $20,000 needed for trip.

Forthcoming Road Tours

Once There Was a Russian- Wilmington 1/18, Philadelphia 1/23

Do Re Mi- Boston 11/29

Conquering Hero- Washington 11/29, Philadelphia 12/13

Calendar- Tryout Openings

Conquering Hero- Shubert- New Haven- 11/19

Love & Libel- Wilbur, Boston- 11/21

Calendar- Current Tours

All the Way Home- Colonial Boston 11/14

Andersonville Trial- Orpheum Madison 11/24-25.

At Drop of Hat- Hartford, Los Angeles 11/21

Critics Choice- Colonial, Bostn 11/14

Destry Rides Again- Curran, San Francisco 11/7

Do Re Mi- Shubert, Philadelphia 11/14

Fiorello! - Warner, Okla City 11/21

Five Finger Exercise- Shubert Detroit 11/21

Flower Drum Song- Shubert, Chicago 11/14

Little Moon of Alban- National, Wash 11/14

Majority of One- Erlanger, Chicago 9/26

Music Man- Fords Baltimore 11/21

Once Upon Mattress- Aud, Denver 11/22

Raisin in Sun- Royal Alexandra Toronto 11/14

Send Me No Flowers- Walnut, Philadelphia 11/14.

Three Penny Opera- Music Box, Los Angeles

DRAMA DESK REPORT

Broadway producers expressed diverse viewpoints to the question posed at Nov "Drama Desk" luncheon--" The Theatre's Economic Strait Jacket--Is There a Way Out?" David Merrick, Robert Whitehead , Kermit Bloomgarden, Lawrence Langer, Leo Kerz participated in discussions of economics and critics. Celeste Holm also attended meeting of NY drama editors and reporters.

A new formula for production was urged by Whitehead, who will be managing director of the Lincoln Center Repertory Theatre. A radical change combining relief from Dramatist Guild demands, star's demands and taxes is needed to prevent the paradox of a dwindling theatre in an expanding economy. The current economic structure of the theatre he termed a bust.

Lack of producers will never be one of the problems of theatre, pointed out Stevens who often believes there are more people who want to be " in" theatre than want to attend it. Producers who do a good job will stay in the field, though it always has been and always will be a constant battle. He did point out that high NY theatre rent of 30% of gross is equalled in London with a theatre owner cut of 40% of the gross, plus a five week minimum.

State of theatre today is better than it was 30 years ago, stated Merrick. With help from Dramatists Guild and some tax relief, it may even be possible to lower ticket prices in the future. Shifting targets Merrick blamed current ills of theatre on critics, not economics. The state of NY criticism was labeled dull, dull, dull. While producer agrees the critics cannot be expected to like all plays, the plays they do like should be made to sound interesting in their reviews. The drama departments could create a little excitement and could pay more attention to the serious play. As for the 21 current members of the NY Drama Critics Circle, producer takes exception to four of them. Though he would not name the other three, he did say that Walter Kerr, Herald Tribune was the dullest of the lot.

Not enterting discussion on merits of critics, Bloomgarden commented that it takes a lot of energy to carry on a bitterness as to what critics do or do not say. The business of the critic is not the economics of the theatre, he is just there to see a given production.

Side-stepping economic side entirely Leo Kerz, producer of forth-coming Rhinoceros explained why he plans NOT to use any quote ads for the Ionesco full length play. Producer-designer feels such ads are unethnical and harmful to reviewer, public and producer. It is wrong to reduce a review to the level of a consumer report. Morever he agrees that reviews do not effect run of a show that gets passed its fifth week. Kerz also believes most ticket buyers only read first and last paragraphs of reviews.

Producers were unanimously agreed that neither they nor any producer they know has ever taken "kick-backs" in any form, and have never participated in ticket scalpers "ice." Question was posed by Zolotow, Times, who had heard that these two "hidden costs" were responsible for much of the high production today.

Celeste Holm suggested that perhaps a sliding scale for star's salaries based on lower percentages until production paid off might solve some of the current problems. But Bloomgarden countered with idea that such percentage's be taken from theatre's net, not gross profits.

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LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Sound of Music and Gypsy to suspend Dec 19-26 ... The Young Elizabeth by Francis and Jennette Letton will be presented Off Broadway in Jan by Dave Collins starring Olive Deering as Elizabeth I... Don Ameche to star in 13 Daughters musical with an Hawaiian setting and will go with director John Fearnley and author Eaton Magoon, Jr to islands for background prior to start of rehearsals in Dec... Sam Levene and Eduardo Cianelli to co-star in The Devil's Advocate, Dore Schary's dramatization of the novel by Morris West to be presented and directed by Schary in Mar... Betty Winsett replaced Jane Johnson, Greenwich Village, USA ... The Trial of Capt John Brown by Richard Stockton, a winner of Samuel French National Collegiate Playwriting Contest, will be presented Off Broadway in Jan by William Putch and James Geallis.

Advise and Consent- Cort- 11/17. 5 pros -including 4 raves- and 2 cons- Times, Post- filed on Loring Mandel's play based on Allen Drury's novel, presented by Robert Fryer-Lawrence Carr, directed by Franklin Schaffner, with Ed Begley, Henry Jones, Richard Kiley, Chester Morris, Judson Laire. Pro side cheered political melodrama, its uniformly excellent cast, taut direction, while con side split on reasons it vetoed adaptation. Though 4 of 5 pro notices were raves for exciting play, several noted that they could not agree completly with all of the author's premises. Kerr, Herald Tribune rated it a big, bold, rough, tough, mean, ornery, very exciting show about a Senate full of bad actors, played by good ones. Though he advised readers to see it, he could not fully consent to premises as drawn, not on patriotic grounds , but on play's plausibility . Chapman, News, cheered absorbing, exciting, disturbing remarkable piece of stage craftsmanship with some of finest teamwork he ever witnessed. Coleman, Mirror, enjoyed rip-roaring old fashioned melodrama, that may seem a lot to swallow but that if taken purely on its own terms is exciting theatre. Aston , World Telegram & Sun, advised fans to check political prejudices at the door for they will be stampeded by rousing, sardonic play, piercingly directed and expertly acted. Play is so full of fury and fevers that WTS critic admitted he almost jumped out in the aisle on the first night to start a demonstration. Sole pro notice in milder tone, McClain, Journal American, felt as a very tenuous and considerable experiment it seems a faithful interpretation of an important book and a compelling and illuminating study of our times. Single fault was staggering scope that took cast and audience some time to work into. Con voter Taubman, Times, agreed cast was first rate and gave dimension to the characters, but feared that as human drama it does not occupy a lofty place, for it deals in blacks and whites. If you accept play's premises, Taubman concluded, you will hail political drama as a fearless exposure. But if you don't, and he didn't, you will look upon it as a loaded condemnation of the liberal position. Watts, Post, condemned it as a curiously hollow melodrama, unquestionably vigorous and well acted, but with characters so vague and its viewpoint so shallow that the result struck him as virtually meaningless, lively but strangely aimless.